

He was a proud member and president of the local IBEW Union for UGI and a member of the masonry union.

Kuch is best known around Scranton as the commander of the General Theodore J. Wint VFW Post 25, one of the oldest VFWs in the country. He led this very active VFW post of more than 500 members in both social, ceremonial and community service endeavors. He has been at the helm of many of the post's initiatives, like hanging hometown heroes banners along streets in North Scranton, recruiting younger veterans to join his post and getting a bridge named for General Wint, a brigadier general and the post's namesake. Kuch and VFW Post 25 have championed one of the City of Scranton's most ambitious veterans' recognition projects, a 7-foot-tall and 33-foot-long granite monument with the names of nearly 1000 Scrantonians who died in battle.

Kuch has been a long-time dedicated supporter of veterans' issues from all angles. Just last year, he stood by me as I announced the Camp Lejeune Justice Act. Men like Kuch have taught me a great deal about what it means to be an American and a public servant.

I am humbled to join with Kuch's family and friends, VFW Post 25 and the entire community in honoring the life and service of this American patriot. He leaves behind an indelible legacy and his honor, integrity and steadfast leadership won't soon be forgotten.

HONORING ANITA GRANT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anita Grant, who is retiring after 31 years of service to Lake County as a member of the county's legal counsel.

An Iowa native, Ms. Grant started her career with Lake County, California, in 1992 as a Deputy County Counsel. She quickly stood out as an exceptional attorney, oftentimes working with county officials on issues, like criminal justice and civil rights. Her hard work and preparation as a litigator were essential in ensuring strong representation for the interests of Lake County at the local, state, and federal levels of the legal system.

Ms. Grant's commitment to public service was unrelenting, especially during election years where she would provide an unbiased review and explanation of the ballot propositions that have appeared in front of Lake County voters. She also helped with the operation of ballot counting equipment to make sure all votes could be quickly and accurately counted. She also provided special training to officials on navigating through the complex set of laws and regulations that they had to adhere to while running elections.

Ms. Grant's leadership, legal expertise, and dedication have made her an indispensable member of our community. She always maintained an open-door policy for county officials who wanted to hear her advice and legal guidance on important matters. Her commitment could be seen in her strong work ethic as she rarely missed work, forfeited vacation leave, and worked on weekends and holidays to get the job done despite the heavy workload she faced.

Ms. Grant's legal work as County Counsel has helped the residents of Lake County by supporting the county's financial well-being. Her assistance in supporting better financial circumstances for Lake County has also helped the county afford to reliably provide necessary services for its residents.

Mr. Speaker, Anita Grant has been an indispensable part of Lake County's community for the past 31 years and her service will be fondly remembered as she heads into retirement. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

CELEBRATING WAYNE WEBBER'S SERVICE AS A VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTER FOR THE BELLEROSE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic accomplishments and career of Wayne Webber.

Nearly 3 decades ago, Mr. Webber moved to Bellerose Village with his wife of 35 years and 2 kids: Sarah and Merrie. On top of being a decorated fireman, Mr. Webber worked as a Medical Technician for 33 years.

Mr. Wayne Webber has been a member of the Bellerose Volunteer Fire Department for 28 years on Long Island. Throughout his time there, Wayne has moved up the ranks, holding many different positions, which is a testament to his character and dedication to serving his community.

Mr. Webber has managed a variety of programs and initiatives, both in corporate officer positions and Firematic officer positions. Within the corporate office, Mr. Webber was the Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President and is now the current President. While working as a Firematic officer, Mr. Webber served in every single position: 1st and 2nd Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Chief, and Chief of the Department from 2002 to 2007—right after September 11.

While bravely serving the Bellerose community, Mr. Webber managed a variety of programs and initiatives that are vital to the Department. Mr. Webber was responsible for developing, supervising, and conducting 40 fire drills within a year. These drills incorporated all phases of training that are essential in preparing for the next incident. As Chief of the Department, Mr. Webber is the Incident Commander for four weeks of training at the Nassau County Fire Academy for Bellerose firefighters and three other fire departments. Mr. Webber was appointed in 2019 as the Bellerose Village Fire Commissioner and currently holds the position.

As an Ex-Chief of the Island Park Fire Department, I understand the importance of Mr. Webber's contributions to the Bellerose Fire Department and the surrounding community. Wayne's long career is inspiring to other firefighters and his neighbors, but more importantly, Wayne embodies the characteristics of an excellent fireman.

On behalf of New York's 4th District, I am esteemed to recognize his astounding career and his brave service as a firefighter. I wish Wayne a bright, healthy, and exciting future.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF ROBERT CORNETTI

HON. RICHARD McCORMICK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Robert D. Cornetti of Roswell, Georgia, "Bob," to his friends.

Mr. Cornetti served in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War, where he received the Good Conduct Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal with Three Bronze Stars, and the National Defense Service Medal.

On April 27, 2023, Mr. Cornetti celebrates his 90th birthday. I want to extend my congratulations, and the best wishes of Congress to Bob and his entire family for this special occasion.

May America and my great State of Georgia be forever blessed with patriots like Robert Cornetti, and may God give him many happy returns.

HONORING ROBERT BLATTNER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert "Bob" William Blattner, who passed away on February 2, 2023, after 67 remarkable years of life.

Bob was born in Erie, Pennsylvania to Bill and Mary Blattner. He spent his early childhood in Walnut Creek, CA, and moved to Pittsburgh, PA in 1964. Bob attended Yale University, where he studied medieval European history and captained the swim team.

Bob began his career of service as a reporter after receiving his master's in Journalism from University of California Berkeley. He wrote for the Sacramento Union, the Daily Press of Newport News, Virginia, and the Sacramento Bee.

In 1994, Bob began working as an education consultant, helping public school districts and county offices navigate the intricacies of school finance. In 2006, he founded Blattner & Associates, which lobbied lawmakers on behalf of public schools. Bob was also a frequent resource for reporters seeking insight on complex education stories and regularly hosted high school students to offer them a glimpse of life inside our state's Capitol. On Fridays, Bob could be found walking the halls of the Capitol in shorts and flip-flops explaining that "the members aren't here anyway".

Bob was married to his beloved wife Ann for 30 years, and is survived by their sons, Jack and Robby, and his brother John. Those who knew Bob will remember him smiling. He enjoyed spending time and energy on the things he valued: music, good food and drinks, history, time in the water, and above all else, his friends and family.

Bob was a compassionate public servant with a great sense of humor, and his upbeat attitude was contagious. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor and thank Robert "Bob" William Blattner for his life of service to our grateful community.

RECOGNIZING 22 YEARS OF SERVICE OF COCONUT CREEK COMMISSIONER BECKY TOOLEY

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 22 years of service by Coconut Creek Commissioner, Becky Tooley.

Born in 1948 in Newark, Ohio, Mayor Tooley has a long history of service to the community of Coconut Creek. Before her election to the Coconut Creek City Commission, she served on the City's Environmental Board and the Planning and Zoning Board.

Her public service continues beyond city government, mentoring the youth of Coconut Creek at the Atlantic Technical Center and Coconut Creek High School. She also serves on the Boards of numerous community organizations, including the Coconut Creek Woman's Club, Alzheimer's Family Center Board of Trustees, Northwest Medical Center, Coconut Creek Democratic Club, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 157, and the board of the Broward League of Cities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing Mayor Becky Tooley for her outstanding service to the people of Coconut Creek in Florida's 23rd Congressional District.

HONORING AIYANNA ZAKIA SANDERS—A CELEBRATED SCHOLAR

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise during Women's History Month to celebrate an incredible woman from California's 37th Congressional District, Aiyanna Zakia Sanders. Aiyanna was born in Los Angeles, California, in 1997. In just 25 years she has made incredible strides. In 2015, Aiyanna was an honored graduate from the Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies High School; In 2019, she graduated from Emory University with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and African American Studies. Recently, in 2022, she and her family celebrated her graduation from the prestigious Harvard Law School.

While pursuing her rigorous education, Aiyanna went the extra mile to serve her community. While at Emory University, she was a member of the local NAACP chapter, the Head Step-Mistress of Ngambika, Co-founder and President of the Black Pre-Law Society, and a member of Black Mental Health Ambassadors. Proudly, Aiyanna also became a member of the illustrious Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. while at Emory. While studying law at Harvard University, Aiyanna was the Secretary of the Black Law Student's Association and an editor of the Black Letter Law Journal. Her many extracurricular activities and roles demonstrate her immense talent and leadership capabilities.

In addition to her extensive leadership, Aiyanna has earned numerous awards for her commitment to public service. She was awarded the Dr. Herman L. Reese Community Service Award, the Delta Research and Edu-

cational Foundation Golden Anniversary Award, and the 2018 NAACP Peoples Award. In 2019 she was honored as a California Change Lawyers Scholar and received the Graduating Woman of Excellence Award. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the achievements and dedication of this incredible woman.

Beyond her academics, Aiyanna is a cherished daughter, granddaughter, and friend. Her parents, Mr. Aaron L. and Mrs. Chawn B. Sanders, her grandparents, Mr. Clifton Byron Ray, III and Mrs. Willa Ray, and countless friends and sisters have rooted for her along the way. I stand here today, proud. When we talk about representation, this is what we mean. Aiyanna is a trailblazer, an inspiration, and a role model for many. I thank her for all she has done and look forward to what she will accomplish.

HONORING THE PENNGROVE SOCIAL FIREMEN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Penngrove Social Firemen and the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Penngrove Social Welfare Club House.

The Penngrove Social Welfare Club was established in 1919 by a group of women from Penngrove, California, who were holding monthly social meetings at their homes. They held dances and card games at other halls in the area, but needed a place of their own to serve their community. The Penngrove Social Welfare Club and the Penngrove community pitched in to donate their time, money, and energy to construct the Penngrove Community Clubhouse where a Grand Opening was held on March 10, 1923. One month later they hosted the club's first public dance, charging a 50 and 75 cent admission fee.

In 1929, the Penngrove Social Welfare Club donated a parcel of land to build the much-needed firehouse for the Penngrove Volunteer Fire Department. More than two decades later, the fire department purchased four acres of land to develop the Penngrove Community Park. At this time the Penngrove Social Firemen were formed. In 1963, the Penngrove Social Welfare Club sold the clubhouse to the Penngrove Social Firemen. Since then, the clubhouse has served as a meeting place for folk dancers, Finnish community members, 4-H meetings, voting, and fundraiser dinners. In 1976, the Penngrove Parade was established by the Social Firemen to honor the country's Bicentennial and the parade has continued to be held ever since. Community members have fond memories of their elementary school graduations and Christmas pageants in the grand building on the corner of Woodward and Oak Streets.

From its humble beginnings the Penngrove Social Firemen has been an entirely self-funded, non-profit organization. The dedicated team of directors, officers, and members volunteer their time to maintain the clubhouse and the community park with an emphasis on supporting the community. The Firemen support many beloved community organizations

such as Penngrove School, Rancho Adobe Fire District, Petaluma Little League, Boys and Girls Scouts, Christmas for Kids, Penngrove 4-H, and Petaluma FFA.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that the Penngrove Social Firemen have devoted themselves to serving our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

CELEBRATING JOHN GIBBONS' SERVICE AS A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER FOR THE BELLEROSE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic accomplishments and career of John Gibbons.

A lifelong resident of Nassau County, Mr. Gibbons grew up in the Floral Park Bellerose community, graduating from Archbishop Molloy High School. He then moved to Bellerose Village in 2001. Mr. Gibbons is a family man, raising 4 kids: Anthony, Olivia, Katherine, and Elizabeth. In June, Mr. Gibbons will celebrate 30 years of marriage with his wife, Lori. On top of being a decorated fireman, John has worked in the banking and finance industries for nearly 3 decades.

John Gibbons has been a member of the Bellerose Volunteer Fire Department for 21 years on Long Island. John has risen through the ranks throughout his time there, holding many different positions because of his character and dedication to serving his community.

Mr. Gibbons has held both corporate officer positions and Firematic officer positions. During his time in the corporate office of the Bellerose Fire Department, Mr. Gibbons held the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President. While working as a Firematic officer, Mr. Gibbons served in all Firematic officer positions: 1st Lieutenant, 2nd Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Chief, and is now serving as Chief of the Department.

While bravely serving the Bellerose community, Mr. Gibbons managed different programs and initiatives vital to the Department. While Mr. Gibbons was a Captain, John organized, supervised, and conducted 40 fire drills within a year. These drills incorporated all phases of firefighter training, preparing each firefighter for the next incident. As Chief of the Department, John is Incident Commander for all Fire Emergencies; in addition, John is the Incident Commander for 4 weeks of training at the Nassau County Fire Academy for Bellerose firefighters.

As an Ex-Chief of the Island Park Fire Department, I understand the importance of Mr. Gibbons' contributions to the Bellerose Fire Department and the surrounding community. John's long career is inspiring to other firefighters and his neighbors, but more importantly, John embodies the characteristics of an excellent fireman.

On behalf of New York's 4th District, I am esteemed to recognize his astounding career and his brave service as a firefighter. I wish John a bright, healthy, and exciting future.